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URBAN DISTRICT OF WOMBWELL.

REPORT ON THE HEALTH AND THE SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1944.

By J. C. PICKUP, M.B., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law.
Medical Officer of Health.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Wombwell
Urban District Council.

Councillor Mrs. Mellor and Gentlemen,

This is my twenty-fifth Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District.

The chief features of the year are:

(a) The decrease in the Infantile death rate.

(b) The decrease in the Respiratory death rate (Non-Tubercular cases) - from 1·8 per 1,000 to 0·97 per 1,000.

(c) The increase in the Cancer death rate.

(d) This year the death rate which is recorded is the crude death rate and not the adjusted death rate as the Registrar General is not this year supplying districts with a comparability factor.

The Ministry of Health desires that the report should be a short one on account of the war, giving mainly the statistics.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. PICKUP.

SUMMARY OF REPORT.

Population estimated by Registrar General for 1944 (mid-year)	17,360
Excess of Births over Deaths for 1944	252
Number of houses occupied at the end of 1944	4,888
Rateable Value	£62,954
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£235

BIRTHS.

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	399	213	186
Illegitimate	17	5	12

Birth Rate 23·9 per 1,000 (England and Wales was 17·6)

DEATHS.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births: Legitimate 52·6 Illegitimate Nil		Total 50·4
Deaths from Measles		0
Deaths from Whooping Cough		0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		1 (1·2)
Death Rate		9.4
Death Rate, Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	9	(0·51 per 1,000)
Death Rate, Zymotic Diseases	1	(0.05 per 1,000)
Death Rate, Respiratory Diseases	17	(0·97 per 1,000)
Death Rate from Cancer	21	(1·2 per 1,000)

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

This year's population gives an average number of persons per house of 3·5.

The estimated population in the various wards of the Urban District is given below:

S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
2293	5556	3187	2597	3727

During the year 11 cases were admitted into, and 6 cases discharged from, Sanatoria.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The excess of births over deaths, or what is generally spoken of as "the natural increase of population," was 252.

The distribution of the births in the Wards is as follows:

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
Males	44	53	36	34	45
Females	31	64	37	22	50
	75	117	73	56	95

Of the total births, 17 (5 males and 12 females) or 4·08 per cent. were registered as being illegitimate.

PREMATURE BIRTHS.

The total number of premature babies who were notified as being born in the Wombwell Urban District during the year was 11. 8 were nursed entirely at home and of these 3 died during the 1st month of birth, 4 survived and 1 left the district. 3 were nursed in hospital and all survived.

DEATHS.

The total deaths amounted to 164, including deaths of residents dying outside the district and excluding non-residents who died in the district. They consisted of 96 males and 68 females.

Distributed in Wards they were:

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
Males	16	33	16	14	17
Females	11	22	14	15	6
	27	55	30	29	23

This gives a total death rate of 9·4 per 1,000 as against 11·6 for England and Wales.

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DEATHS IN QUARTERS.

51 for the first quarter, 34 for the second quarter, 30 for the third quarter and 49 for the fourth quarter.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Death Rate 1944.	Disease.	No. of Deaths in 1944.	Increase or decrease compared with 1943.	Death Rate 1943.
0·0	Enteric Fever	0	same	0·0
0·0	Smallpox	0	same	0·0
0·0	Measles	0	same	0·0
0·0	Scarlet Fever	0	same	0·0
0·0	Whooping Cough	0	—	0·11
0·0	Diphtheria	0	—	0·05
0·05	Influenza	1	—	0·11
0·51	Phthisis	9	—	0·65
0·0	Other Tuberculous Disease	0	—	0·22
1·2	Cancer	21	+	0·9
0·1	Meningitis (Meningococcal)	2	+	0·0
0·6	Cerebral Haemorrhage	11	+	0·22
2·1	Organic Heart Disease	38	+	2·07
0·4	Bronchitis	7	—	0·66
0·51	Pneumonia	9	—	0·9
0·05	Other Disease of Respiratory Organs	1	—	0·17
0·05	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	1	same	0·05
0·0	Appendicitis	0	—	0·05
0·0	Cirrhosis of Liver	0	same	0·0
0·2	Nephritis	4	—	0·35
0·0	Puerperal Sepsis	0	same	0·0
0·0	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	0	same	0·0
0·6	Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	11	—	0·66
0·33	Violent Deaths	6	same	0·33
0·0	Suicide	0	same	0·0
0·05	Peptic Ulcer	1	same	0·05
0·2	Diabetes	4	+	0·16
2·25	Ill Defined Diseases	38	same	2·25
9·4		164	—	10·3

There were 12 inquiries held by the Coroner in Wombwell during the year (being 7·3 per cent. of the total deaths).

Post Mortem Examinations were carried out in 13 cases.

Of still born babies (6) there were 2 interred at Wombwell Cemetery and 1 at Hemingfield Cemetery. The number of still born babies notified was 2.

The causes of Infantile Deaths were as follow:
Premature Birth and Congenital Diseases 11, Pneumonia 5, Diarrhoea 1, Heart Disease 2 and Ill Defined 2.

Infantile Deaths in Wards.

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
Males	3	5	2	1	3
Females	-	2	1	3	1
	3	7	3	4	4

There was no Illegitimate Death during the year.

WARD STATISTICS.

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	E.	H.
Approximate Population	2293	5556	3187	2597	3727
All Deaths	27	55	30	29	23
Death Rate	11·7	9·8	9·4	11·1	6·1
Births	75	117	73	56	95
Birth Rate	32·7	21·05	22·9	21·5	25·4
Infantile Deaths	3	7	3	4	4
Infantile Death Rate (per 1,000 births)	·40	59·8	41·09	71·4	42·1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The deaths from Zymotic Disease were as follow:

Scarlet Fever	-
Diphtheria	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1
Smallpox	-
Measles	-
Enteric Fever	-

Under the Infectious Disease Notification Act there were notified 114 cases of Infectious Disease as follow:

Scarlet Fever 27 (13 males and 14 females.)
Diphtheria 13 (5 males and 8 females.)
Whooping Cough 8 (2 males and 6 females.)
Erysipelas 7 (3 males and 4 females.)
Measles 4 (1 male and 3 females.)
Pneumonia 22 (16 males and 6 females.)
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) 23 (11 males and 12 females.)
Tuberculosis (Non Respiratory) 7 (3 males and 4 females.)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever 1 (1 female.)
Puerperal Pyrexia 2.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases in Wombwell in 1944.

	Removed to Hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	11	-
Diphtheria	13	-
Erysipelas	-	-
Pneumonia	-	9
Phthisis	-	9
Other Tubercular Diseases	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	2
Whooping Cough	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. No action was taken during the year under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62 or 73.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the schools in the district is good.

SWIMMING BATHS.

The baths have been closed from the 1st September, 1939, as the baths are now used as a First Aid Post. Samples of water taken previously showed a high standard of purification.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No new pollution of any rivers and streams was noticed during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water is regular and adequate in quality and quantity to most parts of the town. One portion of the town has only a small supply during the daytime and the Water Board has repeatedly had its attention called to this condition.

WATER SUPPLY (cont.).

Monthly chemical and bacteriological examinations are made of the water going into supply, by the Sheffield Public Analyst for the Dearne Valley Water Board which supplies all of the water to the Urban District of Wombwell.

The latest report from the Public Analyst's Laboratory is as follows:

Temperature on arrival	19°C.
B.Coli Test. (MacConkey's Bile Salt Lactose Broth)	
Probable number of bacteria of the Coli Aerogenes Group present in 100 mls. of the water	0
Free Chlorine	0·10
Total Hardness parts per 100,000	13·0
Chlorides as Cl. parts per 100,000	-
REMARKS:	Satisfactory

(Signed) JOHN EVANS.

Analytical and Consulting Chemist.

All the dwelling houses with the exception of 5 cottages and 3 farms are supplied from the public water main direct to the houses. These 8 houses are supplied by means of wells or stand-pipes.

NEO-NATAL DEATHS.

The number of deaths of Infants in the first month of life was 15, being 71·4 per cent. of the total Infantile deaths.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

No case occurred during the year.

ANTENATAL CLINIC.

52 clinics were held through the year, 311 women made 1511 attendances, giving an average of 29·05 per session.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE HEALTH VISITING.

Births.	
First Visits	386
Re-visits during the year	2372
Re-visits over the first year	4500
Ante-Natal Visits	177
Still Births Visits	2
	7437

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT CENTRE FOR NON-TUBERCULAR CHILDREN UNDER SCHOOL AGE.

During 1944, there were 98 sessions and 1892 attendances.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

At the Wombwell Infant Clinic, where 48 sessions were held, 4045 attendances have been made by children, a weekly average of 84·2, 268 new babies have joined, 249 of these being under one year and 19 over that age. The doctor examined 970 children during the year, an average of 22·8 per session.

At the Jump Infant Clinic, where 50 sessions were held, 75 new babies have joined during the year, all of these being under one year and none over that age, there were 1493 attendances, an average of 29·8 weekly, and 571 were examined by the doctor, the average per session being 11·4.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

No children were cared for during the year by individual foster mothers for gain or by institutions run for profit. There have been several legal adoptions of babies during the year and the Authority communicated and co-operated with us on all these cases before carrying out the adoption.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2866, the Moral Welfare Officer has co-operated with the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. The following is the first report I have received under this arrangement.

SHEFFIELD DIOCESAN MORAL WELFARE COUNCIL

WATH AND TANKERSLEY DEANERIES

REPORT of cases visited in WOMBWELL, HEMINGFIELD, JUMP, in co-operation with WOMBWELL M. and C.W. Committee, under Circular 2866, (Care of the Illegitimate Child). From 1st February, 1944 - 31st January, 1945.

No. of cases visited	14
Married Women	6
Single Women	8
Involving 11 children dealt with as follows:	
Adoptions:	
Children of Married Women	2 (Twins)
" " Single "	2
Fostered	nil
Kept by Mother:	
Children of Married Women	2
" " Single "	1
Absorbed into the home:	
Children of Single Women	5
Still under Supervision:	
Children of Married Women	1
" " Single "	5
Expectant Married Women	3
" Single "	1
Dead or Stillborn	1 (Child of married woman)
Affiliation Orders or Private Agreements obtained	3

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN (cont.)

All adoptions have been carried out either by the people themselves or by the Sheffield Adoption Society.
In two cases of single women it is the second illegitimate child. Three were below the age of 17 at the time of conception, one under 16. In this case a conviction of carnal knowledge was registered against the putative father.
In cases where married women have kept their illegitimate children, the husband's consent has been obtained and an apparent reconciliation between husband and wife has taken place.

HOME HELPS.

This system, although adopted by you and proved to be very satisfactory, is very little used. During the war we are not able to obtain any Home Helps.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 162 children have had full immunisation against Diphtheria carried out. At the close of the year 58 per cent. of the children under 5 years and 76 per cent. of the children between 5 and 15 years had been so immunised.

INFESTATION BY HEAD LICE.

Acting on the Ministry of Health's Circular, the three Health Visitors have concentrated on the education of the mothers in the cleanliness and freedom from vermin of their children, advocating regular weekly washing and daily brushing and combing of the hair. The homes in each Health Visitor's district have been classified and the Health Visitors have concentrated on those most in need of attention. Regular examinations are also made in school and at the clinics.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. PICKUP.

URBAN DISTRICT OF WOMBWELL.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT FOR 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wombwell Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting a brief report on the sanitary circumstances of the district and of the routine work carried out by the department during the year 1944. No purpose will be served by enumerating the difficulties which have had to be overcome owing to sundry causes as these have not been peculiar to your area but common to most Local Authorities.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

The position with regard to this type of residence remains unaltered except that there are now only four of these temporary buildings occupied. The largest one at the top of Garden Grove, Hemingfield, has been dismantled and removed.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There has been no material change in this position. The percentage of closets on the water carriage system is 98·5.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 15 dairy farms within the area on which are kept an average of 268 cows. There are 30 registered cowsheds.

43 visits to farms were recorded but, for various reasons, the pre-war standard of cleanliness and methods of production have not been maintained on the farms where ordinary milk is produced.

One dairy farm, the largest in your area, is licensed by the County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested (Certified) Milk and there are 5 other dairy farms producing Accredited Milk under licence from the same Authority.

14 samples of ordinary milk were taken during the year, 13 for the Methylene Blue Test and 1 for the presence of Tuberculosis. One sample showed the presence of Tuberculosis after inoculation into guinea pigs and another sample failed to stand up to the keeping quality test. A Veterinary Surgeon examined the herd from which the tubercular milk had been obtained and the animal affected was subsequently slaughtered.

PURVEYORS OF MILK.

There are 21 purveyors of milk on the registers which include producer retailers. There are in addition a number of small shop-keepers who sell milk in sealed bottles delivered to them by large dairy companies.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 10 privately owned slaughter houses within your district. These have not been in use during the war years except for the occasional slaughtering of cottagers' pigs. One slaughter house, the largest, is used as the receiving and distributing depot for meat sent to the local butchers' pool.

FOOD PREMISES, BAKEHOUSES AND SHOPS.

126 visits were made to shops and bakehouses where food is prepared or stored for sale and 97 visits were made to your markets.

Small quantities of foodstuffs submitted for inspection were examined and dealt with according to circumstances. These consisted of 49 tins of foodstuffs other than meat, 17 lbs. of canned meat, 8 jars of preserves, 12 lbs. of fish cakes, 59 lbs. of pork sausage, 56 lbs. of home killed beef, 23 lbs. of imported picnic pork, 1 box of cod fillets and 2 boxes of mackerel.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The bedrooms at two council houses and two houses privately owned were disinfested by the department's staff during the year. In 10 other cases insecticides were provided free and advice was also given in circumstances where prolonged treatment was deemed to be necessary. These figures by no means indicate the extent of vermin infestation, particularly in the older type of dwelling house.

RAT DESTRUCTION.

During the year the department joined in the campaign started by the Ministry of Food for a more energetic attack on the rodent menace. A special staff was employed for a fortnight and the whole of the sewers throughout the area were treated. Metal trays were fixed in some 180 manholes and short lengths of rope were fastened to these trays. Prebaiting was carried out for 4 successive days and was followed by the laying of poison baits made from sausage rusk and zinc phosphide. The "total kill" figure obtained in accordance with the Ministry's formula bore no relation to the number of bodies recovered at the sewage works.

Several owners of private property were advised about the rat-proofing of their respective premises, after which prebaiting and poisoning were carried out.

Small quantities of proprietory brand poisons were supplied free to allotment holders where complaints of small infestations were reported.

NUISANCES.

Of 734 nuisances investigated and needing abatement, 634 were satisfactorily dealt with. 355 informal notices were served and 297 were complied with. They consisted of minor housing repairs, defective drainage, burst water services, defective sanitary fittings, etc. 3 statutory notices were served and all were complied with.

SCAVENGING AND CLEANSING.

This is carried out entirely by the Council's own staff. During the year 3157 loads of refuse were collected and all of this, with the exception of a few loads to allotment holders, was disposed of by controlled tipping at Brampton and Jump. It is estimated that the 3157 loads weighed 7600 tons.

	Tons	Cwts.
The estimated weight collected per 1,000 premises was	1554	16.6
The estimated weight collected per 1,000 population was	437	15·8

SCAVENGING COSTS.

	Collection			Disposal			Total		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Costs	3913	-	-	915	-	-	4828	-	-
Income	543	-	-	405	-	-	948	-	-
Nett Costs	3370	-	-	510	-	-	3880	-	-
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cost per 1,000 houses	689	8	10·4	104	6	8·9	793	15	7·3
Cost per estimated ton		8	10·4		1	4·1		10	2·5
Cost per 1,000 population	194	2	5·9	29	7	6·7	223	10	0·6

SALVAGE.

The income derived from salvage during the year ended 31st March, 1945 was £931. The following is a list of articles salvaged, along with the amounts received by the sale of same.

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	72	18	3	-	484	13	11
Black Scrap	3	10	3	-	11	8	10
Loose Tins	13	15	-	-	20	18	6
Non-Ferrous Metals	1	15	1	9	29	9	5
Bottles and Jars	4	3	1	18	30	3	11
Cinder	18	-	-	-			
Textiles and String	11	10	3	6	170	10	-
"Cullet"	24	7	-	-	42	12	3
Rubber	1	8	-	-	3	10	-
Bottle Caps	-	-	3	26	-	9	10
Kitchen Waste	39	19	-	-	39	19	-
Waste Fish	8	8	-	-	8	8	-
Bones	15	15	2	14	75	8	7
Discarded Footwear	3	6	2	-	13	6	-

I desire to record my appreciation of the support received from the Public Health Committee, the Medical Officer of Health, the Chief Officials of other departments, the two Clerks in the Public Health Department, the Salvage Stewards and the workmen engaged on public cleansing and salvage collection.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

H. WARD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.